

The Citizens Council

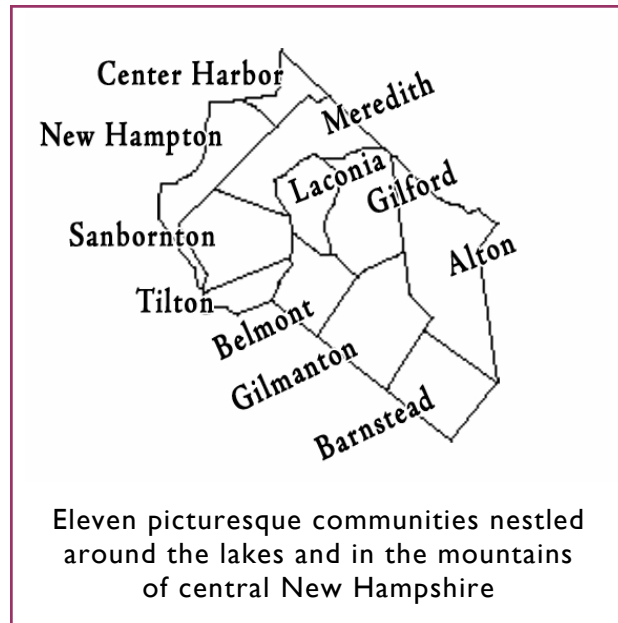
The Belknap County Citizens Council on Children and Families was created in 2002 by a Proclamation of the Belknap County Commissioners. Volunteer citizens from each community in Belknap County are appointed as members of the Council by the Commissioners. Council members work together in local, County, and statewide partnerships and committees of other citizens and professionals to reduce the numerous challenges facing children and families. Council work is accomplished through collaboration, networking, resource development, and sharing. The Council reports its accomplishments and recommendations to the public through community forums, its website, the media, and an annual "Report Card to the Community".

Interested in Getting Involved?

- ◆ As a Council member? Applications available at www.bccj.org.
- ◆ As a member of a Council Task Force or committee? Call 528-3185.
- ◆ As a volunteer with any of the many programs serving children and families in Belknap County? Call 528-3185.



Belknap County Citizens Council on Children and Families



One Mill Plaza
Laconia, NH 03246

Phone: 528-3185
Fax: 528-3635
www.bccj.org

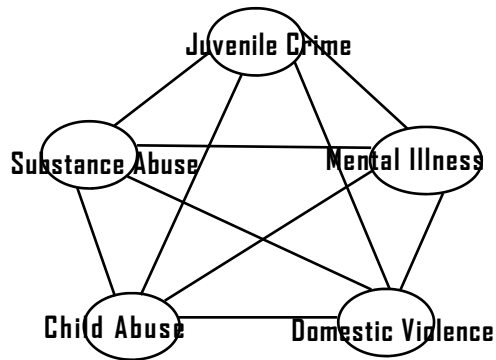
Belknap County Citizens Council on Children and Families



A County Department working in partnerships with citizen volunteers, professional service providers, and others to promote Community Justice throughout Belknap County so that children and families can live safely with dignity and respect.

COUNCIL ACTIVITY

Following numerous conversations with citizens throughout Belknap County, the Citizens Council has identified five inter-related challenges that face many children and families in Belknap County.



Web of Challenges Facing Children and Families in Belknap County

The Citizens Council promotes Community Justice by:

- ◆ Facilitating a planning process that focuses on the Web of Challenges,
- ◆ Advocating for cooperation and communication among providers of services to children and families,
- ◆ Seeking new resources and grant funds,
- ◆ Advocating for children and families,
- ◆ Encouraging active citizen participation and volunteerism on behalf of children and families,
- ◆ Educating others on the Web of Challenges, and by,
- ◆ Providing regular reports to the public.

COMMUNITY JUSTICE IS...

A philosophy that builds strong and united neighborhoods and communities by:



- ◆ Emphasizing the values of *Balanced and Restorative Justice* in the management of wrong-doings that occur,
- ◆ Acting early to *prevent problems* before they happen, and by,
- ◆ Focusing on the *specific strengths* and resources that are unique to each community.

BALANCED AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

This approach to crime and wrong-doing places equal emphasis on:

- ◆ The well-being of the victim,
- ◆ The safety of the community,
- ◆ Holding the offender accountable and,
- ◆ Developing competencies and life skills in the offender.

WORKING TOGETHER...

The principles of Community Justice flourish best in an environment of collaboration, sharing, open dialogue and a coordinated exchange of information and ideas. This is why most all initiatives and activities of the Citizens Council are planned and carried out in partnerships with others. In some instances the Council leads and manages, while in others, the Council is a team member. All Council efforts address the Web of Challenges and all reinforce the values of Community Justice.

Examples of Council partnerships and teamwork include:

- ◆ Juvenile Justice Advisory Council
- ◆ Belknap County Addictions Task Force
- ◆ CoRePLUS Prevention Initiative
- ◆ Belknap County Mentor Initiative
- ◆ Family Violence Prevention Council
- ◆ NH Reclaiming Futures
- ◆ The P.A.L.S. Project